

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 EB-11 NEA-14 NSC-07 SS-20 OMB-01 AID-20 ARA-16

AF-10 FEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 NIC-01 DRC-01 /176 W

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R 312003Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6049

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T USNATO 3056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ETRD, NATO

SUBJECT: ECONADS: MAY 30 MEETING ON COMMUNIST AID AND TRADE WITH
LDC'S

REF: USNATO 2880

1. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, REINFORCED BY EXPERTS FROM FRANCE, UK,
AND THE NETHERLANDS, MET MAY 30 TO CONSIDER COMMUNIST AID AND
TRADE WITH LDC'S DURING 1973 BASED ON US, UK, AND FRENCH PAPERS.
ALTHOUGH ARRIVAL OF US PAPER MAY 29 DID NOT PERMIT ITS
EXAMINATION IN ALLIED CAPITALS, ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE, ECONADS,
AND EXPERTS PRESENT CONSIDERED US SUBMISSION COMPREHENSIVE
AND THOROUGH COVERAGE OF SUBJECT.

2. ALL DELEGATIONS AGREED IN GENERAL WITH DATA AND JUDGEMENTS
IN US PAPER EXCEPT IN ONE IMPORTANT RESPECT--AMOUNT OF COMMUNIST
MILITARY DELIVERIES TO ARAB BELLIGERENTS FROM OUTSET OF YOM
KIPPUR WAY TO END OF 1973. UK AND FRENCH EXPERTS PRESENT
EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT TOTAL VALUE OF COMMUNIST MILITARY
DELIVERIES TO EGYPT, IRAQ, AND SYRIA DURING THIS PERIOD WAS
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\$3 TO \$4 BILLION RATHER THAN \$850 MILLION MENTIONED IN US PAPER.
IN ADDITION, THEY STATED ARAB BELLIGERENTS HAD PAID \$1.5 BILLION
IN CASH FOR SUCH DELIVERIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, FRENCH
DELEGATION SUBMITTED PAPER AT MEETING DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH

SOVIET MILITARY PENETRATION IN LDC'S (TEXT IN FRENCH BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM). PAPER CONTAINS ANNEXES LISTING PRICES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT BY TYPE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES DURING 1973 (WHICH ECONOMIC DIRECTOR FOUND SUSPICIOUSLY LOW), EQUIPMENT LOST DURING YOM KIPPUR WAR, NUMBER OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS IN LDC'S AND NUMBER OF LDC TRAINEES IN THE USSR DURING 1973, WHILE FRENCH FIGURES OF SOVIET ADVISORS AND LDC TRAINEES AGREE IN TOTAL WITH THOSE IN US PAPER, THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BY COUNTRY.

3. OTHER MINOR COMMENTS ON US PAPER WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A) UK EXPERTS NOTED THAT RUMANIAN CREDIT TO PERU OF \$25 MILLION AS ECONOMIC AID NOT MENTIONED.

B) IN CATALOGUING ECONOMIC AID TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES, UK BELIEVES MENTION SHOULD BE MADE OF NIGERIA (SOVIETS HAVE BEGUN OFF-SHORE OIL EXPLORATION), MAURITIUS (PRC BUILDING AIRPORT), AND MAURITANIA (SOVIETS CONSTRUCTING FISH PROCESSING PLANTS).

C) COMMUNIST TRADE FIGURES WITH LDC'S (PAGE 28 OF US PAPER) CAN BE UPDATED TO 1973, ALTHOUGH 20 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1972 IS THE SAME AS 1972 INCREASE OVER 1971.

D) UK CONSIDERS \$350 MILLION SOVIET GRAIN DELIVERY TO INDIA AS COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION RATHER THAN AID. OTHER DELEGATIONS DISAGREED IN VIEW OF CONCESSIONAL TERMS OF TRANSACTION.

E) ALL DELEGATIONS INTERESTED IN PRICE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES CHARGING FOR OIL BEING SUPPLIED AS REPAYMENT FOR AID.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: A) US COMMENTS ON UK AND FRENCH ASSESSMENT THAT VALUE OF COMMUNIST MILITARY DELIVERIES TO ARAB BELLIGERENTS OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1973 WERE THREE TIMES GREATER THAN MENTIONED IN US PAPER. B) COMMENTS ON MINOR POINTS RAISED PARA 3 ABOVE. C) COMMENTS ON DATA IN FRENCH PAPER ON SOVIET MILITARY PENETRATION IN LDC'S.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO03056
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740587/abbryvht.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 2880
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECONADS: MAY 30 MEETING ON COMMUNIST AID AND TRADE WITH LDC'S
TAGS: EAID, ETRD, NATO
To: STATE INFO LONDON
MOSCOW
PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005